

May 10, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney
RE: Docket No. OOP-1211/CP1
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

7164 '00 MAY 18 AID:36

Dear Commissioner Henney:

It has been recently brought to my attention that there is some pending legislation that would require clear labeling of all genetically engineered foods. Please accept this letter as a request that you support legislation that will suspend further introduction of genetically engineered crops to the market without clear labeling guidelines and long-term environmental and human safety testing.

It is my understanding that on account of genetically engineered corn, the monarch butterfly may someday be an endangered species. Laboratory tests by a team of Cornell University researchers discovered large numbers of monarch caterpillars died after eating pollen from genetically engineered corn which had blown onto milkweed leaves from nearby cornfields.

I am concerned about studies which show that genetically engineered foods could create new toxins, antibiotic resistance, allergic reactions and other possible dietary risks. I do not believe, therefore, that they should be generally recognized as safe.

I believe we need to know what the long term effects are of genetically engineered foods. We need to have tests done for human and animal safety. This issue is of paramount importance because there is absolutely nothing within our entire bodies, all the way down to microscopic and submicroscopic structures, that is not built from what we take into our system as food. Before most of our farmland is covered with genetically engineered crops, we need to know what possible side effects there may be.

Please let me know your views on this issue of human and animal safety and whether you intend to support legislation that would require clear labeling of genetically engineered foods and the requirement that more testing be done to determine long term safety.

Sincerely,



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OOP-1211

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COMMISSIONER JAMES HENNEY

DOCKET NO. OOP-1211/CP1

FDA DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH

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